6. New Delhi - Allahabad

7. New Delhi - Lucknow

8. Howrah - Delhi

9. Kolkata - Amritsar

Information on mobile phone about train positions

†1816. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide information to the passengers travelling in reserved coaches about position of the train *via* SMS on mobile subsequent to the trains leaving their originating station;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c): There is no such proposal at present. However, Global position System (GPS) based on-board passenger information system has been tried out on select trains.

Status of tickets under waiting list through mobile phones

†1817. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to inform the passengers, having their tickets under waiting list about their status on mobile after finalizing the chart;

(b) whether Railways also proposes to pass the information to passengers on mobile *via* SMS about the last minute change in their ticket category due to upgradation which causes undue hardship to the passengers at station; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) A pilot project on "SMS alert service for e-ticket customers" has been launched. In this service, "Ticket Booking Confirmation" irrespective of the status of booking is given to e-ticket customers. This service has since become available from the 2nd week of November 2009.

Status report sought by Prime Minister

1818. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has sought a status report from Railways within a fortnight;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the nature and reasons for this scrutiny;

(c) whether it is also a fact that increasing number of accidents has caused worry all over the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce accidents and improve functioning of the ailways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dose not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents has decreased consistently from 415 in 2001-02 to 177 in 2008-09. In the current year also, during April to 30th November 2009, the number of consequential train accidents decreased to 102 from 177 during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents as stated above.

Plan for mobilization of financial resources

1819. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's plan for financial resource mobilization by using surplus railways land includes use of such lands for creating industrial and manufacturing facilities in consultation with State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have planned to utilise its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, etc. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Utilization of surplus railway land

1820. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to utilize surplus railway land for mobilizing additional financial resources;

(b) if so, the details and financial projections thereof;

(c) the details of surplus railway land available, State-wise and location-wise;